

APPALCHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION GRANT PROGRAM AVAILABLE FOR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES

We are on the precipice of an energy technology revolution. Unprecedented investments are being made in new technologies which make energy consumption more efficient and provide us with the energy we need in a cost effective and environmentally neutral manner. Development of new energy technologies is a huge opportunity for industries and communities across the nation. We can lead the way, and the result will be job creation in an entirely new field of research, development and manufacturing.

To assist communities in attracting and creating new energy technology related jobs, The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has recently announced a grant competition to assist Appalachian communities in leveraging renewable energy and energy efficiency resources to revitalize their economies. ARC expects to provide eight to ten awards of up to \$75,000 each, for a total of \$545,000 in awards, to successful applicants.

The goal of the grant program is to provide local communities with the infrastructure necessary to encourage the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency enterprises. The ARC will fund two complementary activities as part of this grant competition: the development of community energy plans and the

implementation of demonstration energy efficiency or renewable energy projects.

With the benefit of the federal funds, communities or organizations might undertake activities such as preparing and adopting a community energy plan. Additionally, the program will provide federal funding to help advance the energy technology economy of Appalachian

communities by creating jobs in energy efficiency or renewable energy. Funds will be granted for a range of opportunities including developing local production facilities for renewable energy such as biofuels, biomass, solar or wind energy in the community or the expansion or start-up of "clean energy" businesses. Communities or organizations might choose to support business incubation programs or targeted business financing programs or to develop new construction or renovations that follow "green building" and LEED certification guidelines. Public institutions and nonprofit entities could also apply for funding for the installation of energy efficiency equipment in their facilities.

Nonprofit organizations, government entities, and public education institutions located within the Appalachian Region are eligible to apply for the grant program, and I encourage Southwest Virginia communities and organizations to take advantage of this opportunity. The deadline for application submissions is August 31, 2010. The ARC will host a webinar will be held on June 23 at 10:00 a.m. to answer questions from prospective applicants. Please visit the Appalachian Regional Commission's website at www.arc.gov or call my Abingdon office at 276-628-1145 for further information.

-###-